

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The association has added five new Board members this year – Jerry Bishop, Jerry Boyle, Warren Edminster, Stacy Litvak and Chris Rogne. Bishop, Litvak and Rogne were elected at the May Annual Meeting while Boyle and Edminster were elected by the Board to fill two unexpired terms prior to the Annual Meeting. They are all highly qualified and very productive. We are very lucky such talented residents have volunteered to serve on the Board and help maintain the uniqueness of CAT #7.

The Board is primarily busy resolving covenant issues and assuring all architectural projects, both remodel and new comply with the restrictions of the protective covenants. See separate articles within this newsletter (“Covenants Committee and Architectural Review”) which highlight the activities in these areas. Adhering to the covenants and the architectural restrictions are what make our neighborhoods so attractive and enhance the value of our homes. Realtors have always remarked how they enjoy showing CAT #7 to clients. Please call if you see anything that maybe a covenant or architectural issue or schedule a meeting with the Board. All inquires are kept confidential and phone numbers to call are listed in this newsletter.

The possibility of crime in the CAT #7 area is always a concern. If you see something suspicious please call the Sheriff's Department not the CAT #7 Board. You may inform the Board of an incident after reporting it to the Sheriff's Department. The Board will keep a talley of incidents and report them to the members. All names and places will be kept confidential. This will help our residents become aware of what to watch out for.

Racetrack Wash is owned by the residents of CAT #7. All residents and their guest are welcome to hike and enjoy the wash. We do post “Private Property” signs there to try and keep out motorized vehicles and any unwelcome visitors that may want to party or camp in the wash. If there is a problem in the wash the police will respond if the property is posted. The signs are there to protect our residents that live along the wash and those that hike the wash. In the past some of our signs have been vandalized and removed. These signs will be replaced. Please call and report to the Board anyone seen destroying or removing CAT #7's “Private Property” signs. All calls again are confidential.

Jim Riley  
President

## One Day in Catalina Estates #7

by Jan Catt-Santiago

**5:30 am.** A snuffing sound in the arroyo. Peering over my wall, I see a herd of javelina, 7 of them with 2 adolescents. A few years back, there were 15-20 and we were always so impressed that when they crossed the road, the patriarch would stand in the middle like a crossing guard until the final one was safe. With all the construction, we're happy with even a few.

**6:00 am.** Walking up the road, I see a bull snake that has been run over by a car. What a pity – they do such a great job keeping the packrats in check. HOWEVER...from the torso are what I assume to be quail eggs that the snake had just devoured. Checking with a friend, however, I learn that these were the snakes own eggs!!! (Of course, none hatched since they were not fully developed – what a shame).

**6:03 am.** A family of quail sprints across the road. Fewer young this year – sometimes only one following its parents. Is it the heat, or are we removing too much of the ground vegetation rendering them vulnerable to predators?

**6:20 am.** The dove which has been sitting on its shallow nest in the median looks very uncomfortable, and I see 2 heads peering out from under her. How they tolerate the direct sun and heat for so many weeks is unbelievable.

**6:30 am.** Walking down the wash, a jack rabbit bounds across my path, soon followed by its mate. They are always seen together. A neighbor told me he had seen 2 young ones in his yard “babies by the size of their ears, but as large a regular rabbits!”

**6:35 am.** Look around for the coyotes who occasionally follow me down the wash. A female is skinny, so she must have had pups, but the male has a thick coat and looks very healthy. Today is my lucky day and I continue on.

**6:50 am.** Drop off my neighbor's paper and a dove flies in front of my face...No, too large for a dove. Followed it to a tree, and an owl rotates its head to look at me.....! Must be the one I hear at night.

**7:30 am.** Driving down the street, and the resident bobcat streaks across the road. What a thrill. Have only seen him twice before.

We are so lucky to live here, close to town, yet surrounded by wildlife.

**PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY**  
( for the humans residents also! )

## Every Little Bit Helps

by Diego Navarrette

A new resident, Susan Litvak, out for her daily walk picking up garbage from the street. Thank you, Susan, we appreciate you ( and others who help to keep this area so beautiful by picking up the trash that others have thrown from their cars).

Also a reminder to dog owners to pick up after their pets. One more plea, please do not dump pruned vegetation from your property into the washes -it just brings in more pack rat medians.

## Open Board Meetings

by Jane Hoffman

The Board generally meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month (Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, July/Aug. no meetings, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>). Holidays and vacation schedules sometimes result in the rescheduling or cancellation of a particular meeting, so please check with the secretary, 323-9299, to confirm a meeting time.

At the beginning of our meetings we allow a ten minute period for “Resident Related Issues” – these must be scheduled with the secretary two weeks before the meeting.

Articles for the newsletter are welcomed and should be mailed to Catalina Foothills Estates #7 Association, P.O. Box 64173, Tucson, AZ, 85728-4173. The Board would like to thank June LeClair for her assistance with the newsletter.

## CFE #7 Board Members

<b>President</b>	Jim Riley	888-1828
<b>Vice-president</b>	Judi Beck	529-3845
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jerry Boyle	888-8279
<b>Secretary to the Board</b>	Jane Hoffmann	323-9299

### Architectural Review Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Warren Edminster	887-5997
	Jerry Bishop	615-5402
	Chris Rogne	529-1774

### Covenants Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Diego Navarrette	529-4787
	Stacy Litvak	696-2030

### Welcome Committee

<b>Chairperson</b>	Diego Navarrette	529-4787
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## Update and Some Thoughts

Covenant Committee, By Chairperson

Diego A. Navarrette, Jr.

The members of the Covenant Committee, as well as other member of the CAT #7 Board, have fielded 22 calls regarding covenant violations since April, 2003. Many of us, here at CAT #7, can already guess the nature of some of the alleged violations. Garbage cans, ugly trash, trailers, commercial vehicles, improper signs, white or bright roofs, portable toilets, storage bins, and vegetation removal are some of the concerns.

So, what are your covenant committee members doing about them? We try to resolve each concern in person or by letter or by phone. Thus far, 12 of the 22 have been resolved. Why not all of them? What takes so long? Reaching the person(s) in question sometimes takes time. Our neighbors travel. Others live here part-time. A few don't respond to calls. Six matters are pending a satisfactory resolution. Painting a roof takes some time since we members don't do paint. Four of the matters are on hold waiting for the persons to respond to letters sent.

Now, I wish to share some personal thoughts. Mine and mine along. I wonder if cans left in view does not invite uninvited, unwelcome individuals. Is the house empty? If so, for how long? Draw your own conclusions about future events. On another matter, we live in the desert. The desert looks it's finest with full growth whether it be green, brown, yellow, or ashen gray. Let us enjoy it as it give itself to use.

Another thing, it is not the light blinding me from across the way that bothers me. But it is frustrating to me that I can't see the stars out at night or that occasional satellite passing over. To be sure security is important. So update the motion detector. One more thing, some signs are akin to the garbage cans issue. I could share some other personal thoughts. Wisdom tells me to leave well enough alone. However, if you wish to share some of your thoughts, come, join us on the committee.

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## Fall Cleanup

by Jan Catt-Santiago

Now that the summer heat has dissipated (hopefully), some residents have noticed that our mailboxes could do with a spruce up. The black has faded and some numbers are illegible. Although there was little rain, some driveways are also the worse for wear. If we all look objectively at these two areas, and rectify where necessary, we will enhance the overall look of #7. On the same topic, let's remember to observe our yard men and prevent any more bursage being removed. One thing leads to another, and soon the dense foliage which is so characteristic of this area, and so conducive to so many cacti and animals will be gone.

## ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Warren Edminster, Chairperson

"Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7 is an area known for its beauty and spectacular views. Maintaining the property owners quality of life and high housing values is a direct result of strict enforcements of its CC&Rs."

This is a direct quote from the handout that is given every new home owner as they come into the neighborhood. As part of their "Closing Papers" at the time that they assumed ownership, was a required document that they have read the Protective Covenants of Catalina No. 7 and further more that they have inspected the "Prospective Property" and found it in full compliance with the Declaration of Protective Covenants. To this they affixed their signature.

Assuming therefore that the property, when purchased, did indeed, comply with the CC&Rs, it is the responsibility to obtain approval from the Architectural Committee of CAT # 7, for any repairs, modifications or additions to all properties.

The Architectural Committee can be reached through the Secretary of the Board, Jane Hoffmann, at 323-9299. It will be necessary that any proposed construction work be described with working drawings, specifications, site plans, landscape plans, etc., all are necessary to completely describe the proposed work. A representative of the Architectural Committee will be assigned to aid you in your submittal, review your documents and sign-off a copy of the alteration. A copy of these documents are held in the permanent file of CAT # 7.

A periodic reminder of the covenants is most helpful and with this in mind, we are including "Excerpts from the Protective Covenants of Catalina Foothills Estates No. 7 Association." If there are any questions about the intent or complete verbage of this document, a complete copy may be obtained by contacting the Board Secretary.

1. Building sites are limited to a single family unit for residential use only. The premise may not be used to conduct a business.
2. **Native growth.** Including cacti, trees and **ground cover (including triangle-leafed bursage, range ratany and zinnia) must not be removed.**
3. Private driveways must be approved before construction begins.
4. **Plans and specifications, including exterior color scheme and roof material, for any building, patio, swimming pool, wall, etc. must be approved in writing and the propose location staked on site prior to such approval.** Changes from approved and specifications which affect the exterior of any structure also require written approval.  
**No white, off-white, or reflective roofs will be approved.**
5. No lot may be used for storage of rubbish, debris or trash.
6. **No billboards, real estate or other advertising signs are permitted** except occupant nameplate or (during initial construction) the name of the owner or builder.
7. **No exterior lights may be directed toward adjoining lots.**
8. Mailboxes and street fixtures must be uniform in shape and design and conform to specifications provided by the Association.
9. **Heating and cooling equipment must be concealed in an enclosure and cannot be located on the roof or wall of any structure.**
10. Pollen free Bermuda grass may be grown. No varieties of grass shall be grown on any lot outside of walled in patio.
11. Trees must be kept trimmed so as not to interfere with views.
12. Radio transmission towers are not allowed. Television receiving antenna must not extend more than 10 feet above the roofline. Satellite antenna systems must be mounted and in excess of 260 sq. inches must be screened so not to be seen beyond the building site.
13. Tanks for storage of oil and gas must be buried or enclosed.
14. Clotheslines, woodpiles, mechanical equipment, etc. must be concealed from view of neighboring lots at all times.
15. Garbage/trash cans must remain concealed and may not be placed along street rights of-way.
16. **No dwelling, swimming pool, garage, or other structure may be erected closer than 30 feet from any property line.**
17. **No fence, wall or hedge may exceed 6 feet in height and may not be closer than 30 feet from any property adjacent to a street.** Those adjacent to adjoining lots may be placed up to 20 feet from the property line, but, if closer than 30 feet, are limited to 4 feet in height.
18. No trailer, motor home, camper, camper van, boat, truck (other than pick up), commercial vehicles, etc. may be placed on the property in an approved enclosed structure.
19. No animal or fowl except pets may be kept. No more than 2 dogs and/or cats are allowed. Objectionable animals or birds will be ordered to be removed.
20. Solar collector installations must be concealed from view from any point beyond the building site in which located.

*Return Service Requested*

## Requiem For a Boojum

*By Connie Spittler*

*“You may seek it with thimbles and seek it with care:  
You may hunt it with forks and hope;  
You may threaten its life with a railway share;  
You may charm it with smiles and soap –“*

With fondness, we remember our Boojum, called the ugliest tree in the world, by some. We didn't plant this *Idria columnaris Kellogg* in our front desert. The original home owners put it to ground, back when it was legal to transport the species from Mexico into the United States. Now, an illegal alien, one can only grow *Idria* from seeds and of course, that takes years. Our Boojum, was over fifteen feet tall, the shape of a strange, upside down carrot with two five-ft limbs stretching to the sky, like displaced roots.

It became our marker, our beacon, our guidepost. “Turn at the Boojum,” we'd tell people coming to visit for the first time. Then we would relate how the tree got its name. About Godfrey Sykes of the Tucson Botanical Laboratories, who took an exploratory trip with other scientists down in Sonora. How Sykes peered through his telescope and suddenly zeroed in on an unusual specimen. At a loss for a descriptive botanical phrase, he remembered Lewis Carroll's poem *The Hunting of the Snark*.

“Ho Ho. A Boojum. Definitely a Boojum,” he exclaimed. And from that inspired whimsy, the common name stuck.

On Christmas we dressed our Boojum with white lights and from its pyramid shape, created one of the most beautiful Christmas tree on the Entrada. We were heartened to hear that the lady who planted the tree came from the nursing home to see her strangely miraculous Boojum shining in the night.

Over the years, from our front veranda, we watched others view this unusual specimen. They would stand in the street and point, shake their heads and gesture wildly as they

examined it. An artist sketched it for the files at Tohono Chul Park. One rare desert tree.

One day Bob whisked me away to meet a mysterious stranger he'd ferreted out. We wended our way to the edge of town, so Bob could introduce me to an elderly professor from the University, Robert R. Humphrey, who wrote *The Boojum and Its Home*. Humphrey had traveled extensively, lecturing about the Boojum. He talked about his ventures in the outer limits of Baja where the Boojum forest is located, until we happily bought an autographed copy of his book.

The sad thing I must tell you is, that over a year ago, our Boojum keeled over and died. Or died



and keeled over, perhaps. We had indeed, lost a member of the family. Our delightfully bizarre tree. Our touchstone to a foreign land. We called several nurseries to see if we could transplant the two healthy limbs that poked out of the top. Even the folks at the Extension Service didn't have answers. The state resident expert was seriously ill and couldn't be reached for comment.

Finally we located someone who was attempting an *Idria* transplant under supervised nursery conditions. He gave us suggestions and we potted the arms and placed them in the back yard, where we will water them for two years every Sunday. It will be that long before we can look through our telescopes to see if our grand experiment has worked. Ho. Ho. Ho. Patience is a virtue, they say.

So this year again there will be no Spittler Boojum Christmas tree in front. For a while we had two foundlings in the back yard, nestled under the shelter of Chilean mesquites. Now we have only one. But we will always have the memory of the friendly, giant Boojum that used to be. We were fortunate to have been near such a remarkable growing thing for even a few years. A tree like no other, descended from some Permo-Triassic ancestor, some form persisting approximately 110 to 125 million years since the middle Mesozoic Period. Yep, we are just two of the lucky ones, we tell ourselves. Other than a lost Boojum, all is well on Via Entrada.

*“But oh, beamish nephew,  
beware of the day,  
If your Snark be a Boojum! For then  
You will softly and suddenly vanish away,  
And never be met with again!”*

The Hunting of the Snark. Lewis Carroll

To answer any questions please contact  
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